CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A pharmaceutical composition in blended or granulated form for the treatment of histamine-induced disorders, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of descarboethoxyloratadine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable inert carrier.

2. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutical composition is substantially free of reactive excipients.

3. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 2 wherein the pharmaceutical composition is substantially free of lactose.

4. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 wherein the therapeutically effective amount of descarboethoxyloratadine is about 0.1 mg to 10 mg.

5. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 4 wherein the therapeutically effective amount of descarboethoxyloratadine is about 0.1 mg to 5 mg.

6. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 further comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an analgesic.

7. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 6 wherein the analgesic is selected from the group consisting of acetylsalicylic acid, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, ketoprofen, naproxen or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 further comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a decongestant.

9. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 wherein the composition is present in one of tablet or capsule form.

10. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 7 wherein the composition is present in tablet form.

11. A method of treating cough, cold, cold-like and flu symptoms and the discomfort, headache, pain, fever and general malaise associated therewith, comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1.

12. A method of treating diabetic retinopathy or other small vessel disorders associated with diabetes melitis, comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1.

13. A method of treating symptomatic dermographism or dermatitis, comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1.

14. A method of treating allergic rhinitis, comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1.

15. A method of treating histamine-induced disorders, comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1.

16. An anhydrous pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of histamine-induced disorders, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of descarboethoxyloratadine, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

17. The anhydrous pharmaceutical composition of claim 16 wherein the therapeutically effective amount of descarboethoxyloratadine is about 0.1 mg to 10 mg.

18. The anhydrous pharmaceutical composition of claim 17 wherein the therapeutically effective amount of descarboethoxyloratadine is about 0.1 mg to 5 mg.

19. The anhydrous pharmaceutical composition of claim 16 further comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an analgesic.

20. The anhydrous pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the analgesic is selected from the group consisting of acetylsalicylic acid, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, ketoprofen, naproxen or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21. The anhydrous pharmaceutical composition of claim 16 further comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a decongestant.

22. The anhydrous pharmaceutical composition of claim 16 wherein the composition is present in one of tablet or capsule form.

23. The anhydrous pharmaceutical composition of claim 22 wherein the composition is present in tablet form.

24. A method of treating cough, cold, cold-like and flu symptoms and the discomfort, headache, pain, fever and general malaise associated therewith, comprising administering an anhydrous pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16.

25. A method of treating diabetic retinopathy or other small vessel disorders associated with diabetes melitis, comprising administering an anhydrous pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16.

26. A method of treating symptomatic dermographism or dermatitis, comprising administering an anhydrous pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16.

27. A method of treating allergic rhinitis, comprising administering an anhydrous pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16.

28. A method of treating histamine-induced disorders, comprising administering an anhydrous pharmaceutical composition according to claim 16.

29. A non-hygroscopic pharmaceutical composition comprising descarboethoxyloratadine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, lactose and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable inert excipients wherein the composition is substantially free of unbound water.

30. The non-hygroscopic pharmaceutical composition of claim 29 wherein the one or more pharmaceutically acceptable inert excipients is selected from the group consisting of non-hygroscopic excipients and low-moisture excipients.

31. A solid, non-hygroscopic pharmaceutical composition comprising descarboethoxyloratadine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

32. An uncoated pharmaceutical composition substantially free of reactive excipients comprising descarboethoxyloratadine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

33. A chemically stable pharmaceutical composition in blended or granulated dosage form and substantially free of reactive excipients comprising about 1 % to about 50% by weight of descarboethoxyloratadine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and about 99% to about 50% by weight of a pharmaceutically acceptable inert carrier.

34. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of histamine-induced disorders comprising large particles of descarboethoxyloratadine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

35. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 34 wherein the descarboethoxyloratadine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, present in the composition has a particle size distribution in which greater than about 40% by weight of the descarboethoxyloratadine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, comprises particles having a size of 250 μm or larger.

36. A solid pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of histamine-induced disorders comprising a therapeutically effective amount of coated descarboethoxyloratadine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which comprises descarboethoxyloratadine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, coated with an inert coating agent, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

37. The solid pharmaceutical composition of claim 36 wherein the coated descarboethoxyloratadine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, further comprises a granulated formulation of descarboethoxyloratadine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable inert excipient, wherein the granulated formulation is coated with an inert coating agent.

38. The solid pharmaceutical composition of claim 36 or 37 wherein the inert coating agent comprises an inert film-forming agent in a solvent.

39. The solid pharmaceutical composition of claim 38 wherein the inert film-forming agent is selected from the group consisting of methylcellulose, hydroxymethyl cellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, methylhydroxyethylcellulose and sodium carboxymethylcellulose.

40. An instant release solid pharmaceutical dosage form for treating histamine-induced disorders, comprising an open matrix network carrying a therapeutically effective amount of descarboethoxyloratadine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the open matrix network comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable water-soluble or water-dispersible carrier that does not interact with the descarboethoxyloratadine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.